

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

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USUN FOR AMB RIDGWAY, LOS TUNA TALKS

FOLLOWING REPEAT PANAMA 2906 ACTION SECSTATE INFO PANCANAL

USCINCSO 26 APR 76

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, PFOR, PN

SUBJECT: PANAMANINA REQUEST FOR SEIZURE OF US FLAG VESSEL

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED PHONE CALL AND DIPLOMATIC NOTE FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY THIS AFTERNOON (APRIL 26) REQUESTING THAT US AUTHORITIES IN CANAL ZONE ARREST AND TURN OVER TO PANAMANIAN AUTHORITIES THE US TUNA BOAT "VOYAGER." BASIS FOR REQUEST IS PANAMANIAN ALLEGATION THAT "VOYAGER" WAS FISHING ILLEGALLY ON APRIL 25 IN PANAMANIAN WATERS 45 MILES OF THE COAST OF CHIRIQUI AND FLED INTO CANAL ZONE WATERS WHEN APPROACHED BY PANAMANIAN NATIONAL GUARD PATROL BOAT. THE VOYAGER IS PRESENTLY ANCHORED IN CZ WATERS OFF FLAMENCO ISLAND.

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2. PANCANAL GENERAL COUNSEL HAS ASSERTED HE KNOWS OF NO

LEGAL WAY THE CZG COULD SEIZE AND HOLD THE VOYAGER AND ITS CAPTAIN AS REQUESTED BY THE PANAMANIAN.

3. IN VIEW OF EXCELLENT PANAMANIAN COOPERATION WITH US AUTHORITIES IN ARRESTING NARCOTICS SUSPECTS AND TURNING THEM OVER TO US AUTHORITIES, WE BELIEVE PANAMANIAN REGARD THIS CASE AS CHANCE FOR US TO REPAY FAVORS IN KIND. IN THIS CONNECTION DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL RECENT INSTANCE OF EXCELLENT FONOFF COOPERATION WHEN ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER VERBALLY AUTHORIZED US AUTHORITIES TO BOARD, SEARCH, AND SEIZE PANAMANIAN REGISTRY VESSEL M/V KAKI IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS OFF US COAST (STATE 82495 AND PREVIOUS). THIS AUTHORIZATION WAS SUBSEQUENTLY CONFIRMED BY DIPLOMATIC NOTE FOR USE IN US COURTS.

4. EMBASSY, HOWEVER, IS ALSO UNAWARE OF ANY LEGAL BASIS OR INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD AUTHORIZE CZ GOVERNOR TO SEIZE THE BOAT, ITS CARGO AND CAPTAIN. UNFORTUNATELY US FAILURE TO COOPERATE WITH GOP IN THIS INSTANCE COULD CAUSE PANAMANIAN TO Dampen IF NOT HALT THEIR COOPERATION WITH US AUTHORITIES IN NARCOTICS MATTERS.

5. EMBASSY REQUESTS DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE ON HOW TO PROCEED IN THIS MATTER.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FISHING BOATS, VOYAGER, ALLEGATIONS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 APR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** LMNAKATSU  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** n/a  
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**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 19 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PANAMANINA REQUEST FOR SEIZURE OF US FLAG VESSEL  
**TAGS:** EFIS, PFOR, PN, US, PQ  
**To:** USUN NEW YORK  
**Type:** TE  
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